

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A process of gelatinising starch by thermomechanical treatment of starch, wherein a dialdehyde polysaccharide with a degree of oxidation of 2-65 % is added to the starch and the thermomechanical treatment is carried out continuously.

2. (original) A process according to Claim 1, wherein the water content of the starch at the start of the thermomechanical treatment is 5-80 % (m/m), based on the starch.

3. (currently amended) A process according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein 2-50 % (m/m) (based on dry starch) of dialdehyde polysaccharide is used.

4. (currently amended) A process according to ~~one of Claims 1-3~~ Claim 1, wherein the thermomechanical treatment comprises extrusion.

5. (original) A process according to Claim 4, wherein a dialdehyde polysaccharide with a degree of oxidation of 3-60 %, in particular 5-30 %, is used.

6. (currently amended) A process according to ~~one of Claims 1-5~~ Claim 1, wherein 10-75 % (m/m) of one or more plasticisers other than water is also added to the starch.

7. (currently amended) A process according to ~~one of Claims 1-6~~ Claim 1, wherein the dialdehyde polysaccharide is dialdehyde starch.

8. (currently amended) A process according to ~~one of Claims 1-7~~ Claim 1, wherein 1-50 % (m/m) clay mineral is also added to the starch.

9. (currently amended) A process according to ~~one of Claims 1-8~~ Claim 1, wherein one or more other biopolymers are added to the starch, in a ratio of 1-70 % based on the total of biopolymers.

10. (currently amended) A process according to ~~one of Claims 1-9~~ Claim 1, wherein 10-80 % (m/m) (based on the starch) aliphatic polyester is also added to the starch.

11. (currently amended) A process according to ~~one of Claims 1-10~~ Claim 1, wherein the thermomechanical treatment is carried out at a temperature below 115 C, in particular of 80-100 C.

12. (original) A granulate of thermoplastic starch that, based on the starch, contains 2-50 % (m/m) of a dialdehyde polysaccharide or coupling product thereof, with a degree of oxidation of 3-65 %, and 10-75 % (m/m), based on the total of starch and dialdehyde polysaccharide, of a polyol or urea as plasticiser, and water.

13. (original) A shaped starch product that, based on the starch, contains 2-50 %(m/m) of a dialdehyde polysaccharide or coupling product thereof, with a degree of oxidation of 3-65 % and 10-75 % (m/m), based on the total of starch and dialdehyde polysaccharide, of a polyol or urea as plasticiser, and water.

14. (original) A blown starch film that, based on the starch, contains 2-50 %(m/m) of a dialdehyde polysaccharide or coupling product thereof, with a degree of oxidation of 2-65 %, and 10-75 % (m/m), based on the total of starch and dialdehyde polysaccharide, of a polyol or urea as plasticiser, and water.